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Senate presents calling cards donated to military by DTE Energy and Verizon

Lansing — Michigan National Guard and Army Reserve family members will now have free means for staying in touch, thanks to efforts by local legislators and two Michigan businesses, state Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) announced today.

In a special ceremony today at the Capitol, 3,000 phone cards were presented to the Michigan National Guard and Army Reserve by members of the state Legislature. The phone cards, usable for 60 minutes of domestic long-distance, were donated by DTE Energy and Verizon.

“Our soldiers are heroes and dedicate themselves to our country,” Patterson said. “These cards show them our appreciation and will allow military family members to stay in touch throughout the holiday season.”

Accepting the cards were Master Sgt. Les Koren from the National Guard, Vicki Thompson and Shirley McGaughy. Thompson’s husband, David, is a specialist with the 119th Field Artillery and is set to deploy in December. McGaughy’s son, Keith Stewart, is a specialist with the 54th Engineer Battalion currently stationed in Kuwait.

Presenting the phone cards were Sens. Patterson, Laura Toy (R-Livonia), Valde Garcia (R-Howell) and Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton), along with Nancy Moody, director of state government affairs for DTE Energy, and Paul Fuglie, assistant vice president of external affairs for Verizon.

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**Photos of the phone card presentation will be available late this afternoon on the
Senate Majority Photowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop**